

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Previously Presented) A non-transitory recording medium, comprising:  
a digital stream;  
a plurality of pieces of playback path information, each indicating a playback path  
for the digital stream; and  
5 a control program instructing a playback device to play the digital stream using  
the playback path information,  
wherein the control program includes a selection procedure which causes the  
playback device to compare a value stored in a status register to a constant, and select at least  
one of the pieces of playback path information, according to a result of the comparison, the value  
10 indicating an age of a user set on the playback device.
2. (Original) The recording medium of Claim 1, wherein  
the control program instructs the playback device to check a register-stored value  
indicating one of a country, and  
the selection procedure is performed only if the register-stored value is a  
5 predetermined value.
3. (Previously Presented) A playback device, comprising:  
an execution unit operable to execute a control program recorded on a recording  
medium;  
a playback unit operable to play a digital stream recorded on the recording  
5 medium; and  
a plurality of status registers,

wherein the recording medium has a plurality of pieces of playback path information recorded thereon,

one of the status registers stores therein a value indicating an age of a user,

10           the execution unit executes the control program to compare the value stored in the status register to a constant, and selects at least one of the pieces of playback path information according to a result of the comparison, and

the playback unit plays the digital stream based on the selected at least one of the pieces of playback path information.

4.       (Cancelled)

5.       (Previously Presented) The playback device of Claim 3, wherein

the status registers includes a register for storing therein a value indicating one of a country, and

5           the execution of the control program is performed to judge whether the value is a predetermined value, and the selection of the at least one of the pieces of playback path information is performed only if the value is determined as the predetermined value.

6.       (Original) The playback device of Claim 3, wherein

the recording medium is a first recording medium, and

one of the first recording medium and a second recording medium is loaded on the playback device, and

5           the playback device, further comprising:

a conversion unit operable to convert a numeric indicating an age into a playback level when the second recording medium is loaded; and

an auxiliary playback unit operable to, when the second recording medium is loaded, select from among a plurality of pieces of playback

10 path information recorded on the second recording medium, a piece having the playback level, and play a digital stream recorded on the second recording medium according to the selected piece,

wherein the execution of the control program is performed only when the first recording medium is loaded, and the selection of the at least one of the pieces of  
15 playback path information is performed according to a result of the execution.

7. (Original) The playback device of Claim 6, wherein

the second recording medium has one or more country specific tables recorded thereon,

each of the country specific tables describes mapping information in which rating  
5 levels of a rating system for a country are associated with level IDs, and

the conversion into the playback level includes

converting the age-indicating numeric into a rating level of a rating system for a country to which the playback device belongs, obtaining, from among level IDs in mapping information described in a country specific table for the country, a level ID associated with the  
10 rating level, and designating the obtained level ID as the playback level.

8. (Original) The playback device of Claim 7, comprising:

a receiving unit operable to display a setup menu and receive an input of the age,  
and

a conversion table associating a plurality-of ages with a plurality of rating levels  
5 in a one-to-one fashion,  
wherein the conversion into the rating level is performed by referring to the  
conversion table.

9. (Original) The playback device of Claim 3, wherein  
the recording medium is a first recording medium, and  
one of the first recording medium and a second recording medium is loaded on  
the playback device, and  
5 the playback device, further comprising:  
a receiving unit operable to display a setup menu and receive an input of a  
rating level on the setup menu,  
a conversion unit operable to convert the input rating level into a numeric  
indicating an age; and  
10 an auxiliary playback unit operable to, when the second recording medium  
is loaded, select from among a plurality of pieces of playback path information recorded  
on the second recording medium, a piece having the input rating level, and play a digital  
stream recorded on the second recording medium according to the selected piece,  
wherein the execution of the control program is performed only when the  
15 first recording medium is loaded, and the selection of the at least one of the pieces of  
playback path information is performed according to a result of the execution.

10. (Original) The playback device of Claim 3, wherein  
the recording medium is a first recording medium, and

one of the first recording medium and a second recording medium is loaded on the playback device, and

5 the playback device, further comprising:

a receiving unit operable to display a menu showing combinations between ages and playback levels, and receive a specification for one of an age and a rating level;

a conversion table operable to perform interconversion between an age and a rating level based on the specification; and

10 an auxiliary playback unit operable to, when the second recording medium is loaded, select from among a plurality of pieces of playback path information recorded on the second recording medium, a piece having a rating level matching the specified rating level, and play a digital stream recorded on the second recording medium according to the selected piece,

wherein the execution of the control program is performed only when the first  
15 recording medium is loaded, and the selection of the at least one of the pieces of playback path information is performed according to a result of the execution.

11. (Original) The playback device of Claim 3 including a plurality of status registers, wherein

one of the status registers stores therein a numeric indicating an age of a user,

another one of the status registers stores therein a date of birth of the user,

5 the age-indicating numeric is calculated from the date of birth and a current date,

and

the execution of the control program is performed when the recording medium is loaded, and the selection-of the selection of the at least one of the pieces of playback path information is performed according to a result of the execution.

12. (Original) The playback device of Claim 11, wherein

the recording medium is a first recording medium, and

one of the first recording medium and a second recording medium is loaded on the playback device, and

5 the playback device, further comprising:

a conversion unit operable to convert, when the second recording medium is loaded and determined as the second recording medium, the age-indicating numeric into a playback level; and

an auxiliary playback unit operable to select from among a plurality of pieces of  
10 playback path information recorded on the second recording medium, a piece having a playback level matching the playback level, and play a digital stream recorded on the second recording medium according to the selected piece,

wherein the execution of the control program is performed only when the first recording medium is loaded.

13. (Previously Presented) A program embodied in a non-transitory computer readable medium that causes a computer to perform playback processing of a digital stream using playback path information, and in a case where a plurality of pieces of the playback path information are recorded on a recording medium having the digital stream recorded thereon, to

5 compare a value stored in a status register to a constant, and cause the computer to select at least

one of the pieces of the playback path information according to a result of the comparison, the value indicating an age of a user of the computer.

14. (Previously Presented) A playback method for playing a digital 'stream using playback path information, the playback method comprising the step of:

comparing, in a case where a plurality of pieces of the playback path information are recorded on a recording medium having the digital stream recorded thereon, comparing a value indicating an age of a user to a constant, and selecting at least one of the pieces of the playback path information according to a result of the comparison.

15. (Previously Presented) A recording method for recording a digital stream and a plurality of pieces of playback path information each indicating a playback path for the digital stream, the recording method comprising the step of:

recording the digital stream and a control program instructing a playback device to play the digital stream using the playback path information, wherein

the control program includes a selection procedure which causes the playback device to compare a value stored in a status register to a constant, and select at least one of the pieces of playback path information according to a result of the comparison, the value indicating an age of a user set on the playback device.